

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 5-15 will be pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment. Claims 9 and 10 have been allowed while claims 5-8 and 11-15 stand rejected as being obvious over the combination of JP 2000-197971A taken in combination with newly cited U.S. 6,274,084 to Haudrechy.

In the amendment made above, claim 6 is amended to define the welding shield gas as consisting of an inert gas and nitrogen gas. In contrast to this, JP 2000-197971A discloses using a mixed gas which includes argon gas as a base gas, nitrogen gas and carbon dioxide gas. In addition, JP 2000-197971A discloses that the arc becomes unstable and welding cannot be performed successfully if the carbon dioxide gas is below 2 vol% (paragraph [0016]). That is contrary to the present invention and claim 6 as above amended.

Haudrechy does not disclose or suggest a welding shield gas.

Therefore, neither of these references considered individually or in combination disclose or suggest the present invention. The present invention is not obvious from the combination of these references.

As has been explained in the above, currently amended claim 6 of the present invention is directed to features which are not disclosed or suggested in the citations and results in technical advantages as explained in the Amendment and responses of February 16, 2006 and September 21, 2005.

For the above reasons it is submitted that claim 6 defines patentable subject matter and so to do claims 5, 7, 8 and 11-15 all dependent from allowable claim 6. Reconsideration and the allowance of all claims in this application are solicited. If this response does not place the application in condition for allowance the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

KIMURA, Y. et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

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